(b) No, Sir. The decision can be taken only after the State Government submits the plans and detailed estimates based on the approved proposals.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Annewari System

4854. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annewari System related to the income of land holdings of farmers; and

(b) whether farmers of backward and hilly areas depending on rainfed agriculture have not been benefited by debt relief due to the Annewari System as a farmer in progressive area growing sugarcane may have larger income even though the crop falls below 50 per cent as compared to a paddy grower whose crop may be more than 100 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Annewari system relates to the yield of crop obtained in a particular season with reference to the normal yield of that crop. The Annewari declaration is not based on income from land of landholding of the individual borrowers. It is based on damage to crops and yield on village/block-wise basis. With a view to adopting an objective criteria for assisting crop damages, the Agricultural and Rural debt relief (ARDR) Scheme sought to link crop damages to Annewari declaration of the State Governments. In terms of the provisions of the ARDR Scheme those borrowers who did not repay their loans or land instalments due and experience two or more bad crop years whether consecutive or not, one of which was the year in which the default occurred, were eligible for necessary debt relief under the scheme. "Bad Crop Year" means a year resulting in a corp yield for which the 'Annewari' declared for the crop yield was fifty percent or less of the normal yield. As the scheme does not differentiate between the borrowers in hilly areas or progressive areas and as the Annewari declaration is based on the damage to standing crops due to natural calamities assessed on village/block wise basis, there is not discrimination in providing relief under ARDR Scheme to borrowers in hilly areas or other progressive areas.

Sainik School in Arunachal Pradesh

4855. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Sainik School in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). A Sainik School is established at the specific request of a State Government/Union Territory Administration as the entire capital expenditure and a major portion of the recurring expenditure on the School has to be borne by it. At present, the Ministry of Defence do not have under their consideration any concrete proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the opening of a Sainik School.

Trade with Australia

4856. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia has indicated keen interest to expand trade with India;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;